

CROSBYANA – JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH BING CLUB

ISSUED FROM SUMMER 1950 TO AUTUMN 1952 and possibly Dec 1952 although no copy has been found.
It is also possible that the magazine made it into the first part of 1953 before it was replaced by CROSBY POST
and the name of the society was changed to The Crosby Society.

CROSBY POST WAS FIRST ISSUED IN APRIL 1953

CROSBYANA

SALIENT POINTS

ISSUE 1 SUMMER 1950

Arthur N. Allen writes the forward to the new journal and explains that the club has been established with the permission of Bing Crosby. Art acknowledges all the hard work that had been put in to create the club and thanks Larry Crosby, Ruth Ness (Club Crosby President), Jean Rainey, Les Gaylor, Dot Hardiman and George of Picturegoer for their efforts in establishing the club.

Active Club officers were – Art Allen Editor & Co-President, Jean Rainey Co-President, Les Gaylor (Vice President), Dot Hardiman Club Secretary.

2 AUTUMN

2 new members of the team Colin Pugh & Avril Devine are introduced as Club Representatives. Colin muses on Starting a Bing Collection following the release of a **Bing Crosby Discography**. Les Gaylor covers the latest Bing releases. Cab Smith & Ted Laker write letters. Members Eric Jackson & Miss M Robinson seek items in Exchange & Mart – Additions to discography listed. Honorary membership accepted by Margaret Lockwood, John Mills and Godfrey Winn

3 DECEMBER

Les Gaylor begins role as club publicity representative. Colin Pugh continues his advice on collecting Bing. Jean & Art quote from a letter from Bing in which he records his pleasure in reading the Autumn issue of Crosbyana and the **Discography** and Bing suggests co-operation with an American music publisher who is preparing a discography of his recordings. Ralph Harding & Johnny Joyce make appeals in Exchange & Mart. Cab Smith recalls his visit to see Frank Sinatra at the Palladium in July 1950 when Frank spoke highly of Bing and sang Ol' Man Crosby.

4 JAN-FEB 1951

R R Davis joins the clubs representatives and takes on role of associate editor. We learn that Brunswick Records increased the cost of their 10 inch 78s to six shillings on Jan 1st 1951

5 MARCH-APRIL

Anniversary issue. Jean announces that Art has had to step down as editor and that Reg Davis would take over. Ralph and Les give their opinions on Bing's career. Colin continues with his advice on collecting Bing's recordings. Geoff Milne & Johnny Joyce feature in exchange & Mart. Les Gaylor reviews the latest copies of Bing 78s. Edward J. Mello & Tom McBride's latest **Discography** is announced

6 MAY-JUNE

Ralph covers a selection of Bing's films. Les and Reg indicate that over the past year they, Geoff Milne, Ralph Harding and Colin Pugh have been compiling a complete and definitive **Discography** of Bing's recordings. Geoff milne has been able to provide detailed information from Bing's Decca recording sheets about all the different takes of Bing's records. Les Gaylor reviews the latest Bing releases.

7 JULY-AUGUST

Geoff Milne becomes assistant Editor. Les & Reg continue their articles on Bing's alternate takes and thank Charles Cowdrey for his input from his large collection. Les reviews no less than seventeen new Bing releases. Doris Jones of Manchester suggests items that would appeal to her for inclusion in the magazine, suggesting different points of view and controversy would be good reading.

8	CHRISTMAS	Reg indicates that a small number of members attended a club meeting at his home on Sunday 18th of November 1951. He bemoans that he wished more had come along and notes that Cab Smith had travelled a long distance to be there and that he had to spend the night on Paddington Station as he missed the last train home. Jean Rainey reports that Bing had recently sold his house at Pebble Beach, the family preferring to spend their spare time at their ranch in Eiko. Colin Pugh concludes his articles for the record collector looking at a Filing System. Les continues his reviews of new discs and Ralph continues his series on Bing's films.
9	No. 1 1952	Ralph Harding & John Parker now assist Reg & Geoff with the editing of the magazine. Reg urges members to contribute to the magazine and states that the magazine is only supported by collectors" he confirms that a club meeting was held at the home of member - Clare Johnstone. Jean Rainey confirms that Bing's latest film is to be called Just for You and not Famous as was previously thought. Ralph covers If I Had My Way to Holiday Inn is his film series. Editors Reg & Geoff covers Bing's recordings from 1951 with pithy comment. Bing's shows can be heard on Short Wave 19 metres Voice of America
10	No. 2	Jean & Art send anniversary greetings to members and clarify how many journals members will receive each year for their subscription of seven shillings and sixpence. It will be four or five per year depending on the availability of news etc. Jean & Art state that they would like to see more London members at the "record sessions". Ralph covers The Road To Morocco & Star Spangled Rhythm. Les covers the latest crop of 78 releases. Art airs his views on the Crosby Voice. Ralph Harding announces a new record label for collectors to be called Ristic Records to be double sided Vinylite. Price around 8 shillings and sixpence. Anniversary issue.
11	No's 3 & 4	Jean refers to Bing's participation in the golf match with Hope, Peers and Ray and to his journey to Paris to film Little Boy Lost. Dixie does not travel with Bing due to illness. Bing made his debut on TV in June on a programme to raise funds for the US Olympic Team. Phillips announce that they are opening a record factory near London and they have the rights to the American Columbia catalogue. EMI GROUP (HMV, PARLOPHONE, COLUMBIA, MGM) are issuing LP & EP records. Art Allen can advise on the new "Grams" Bing and Jazz an article by ? But believed to be Ralph Harding. Ralph visits the Isle Of Wight and meets Les Gaylor but does not find any interesting records in the various second hand shops. Geoff Milne reviews Just For You. Ralph reviews Dixie at length, he also confirms that the Ristic project had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Ralph asked those members who were intent on building a Crosby collection to let him have details. Leslie covers the latest 7 Bing releases.
12		No copy has been located. No magazines have been located for the first three months of 1953

CROSBY POST

1	/04/1953	1st issue announced as a surprise by returning editor Art Allen. Crosby Post incorporates The British Bing Club and the club is now to be known as THE CROSBY SOCIETY. Art Allen and Jean Rainey are active presidents. Les Gaylor VP and Dot is secretary. Reg Davis and his team are thanked for turning out the old! CROSBYANA which "started so well but later twinkled and twinkled until it nearly went out" FEE IS STILL SEVEN SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE for a years membership. Art reviews the latest 6 78 releases and two 10" LPs – Bing & Connee – Bing Sings Jerome Kern.
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FINAL ISSUE /12/1965

Summary provided by Michale Crampton 2021

R y e c r o f t,
Low Road,
Wainfleet St. Mary,
Skegness PE24 4JQ

Ph;01754 881092

friday. Sept. 15th 00

Dear Michael,

I apologise for writing another letter so soon and promise not to be a nuisance but my reason for writing is to tell you of a tape of the 1956/7 London meetings which Stan White sent me. Like you, he responded with an unexpected 'gift' in the form of this tape which featured a short interview with my old friend, Jean Rainey. I'm sure you've either got or have heard the tape which commences with a very few words from the great original and a few songs from the only 'club' member who came to see me in Nottingham.. C.A.B. Smith of Cookham on Thames. Strange how Bing played golf on Cab's doorstep!

Returning to the Jean Rainey interview. She said that she looked forward to taking a more active part in club activities when she had concluded her "course." I did not know about her three year course which she must have been about to embark upon when she said she was unable to take over an active part in the club in order to take some of the workload from me. I regret that she did not advise me in detail. We had become good friends and I would not have started the club without her verbal approval. No way! When I phoned you I was really taken aback to discover the Crosby appreciation society had continued.

Since my letter of thanks to you I have had the time to read Malcom's amazing feat, 'Diary of a Lifetime'. I can imagine the work involved. Testing the accuracy must have been an Herculean task. I just could not put the book down. Honestly, I do prefer it to 'Call Me Lucky' although one must bear in mind that for Bing to get involved in his biography on top of his activities at that time must have meant 'burning the midnight oil'.

I have to admire and congratulate Malcom in the knowledge that no human being can be 100% accurate because I know of three dates which placed Bing in London not in the diary plus one, just before his death, when he and Nathaniel were in Nottingham. The Nottingham dates placed him being a customer in Boots prestige store and the same evening being in 'The trip to Jerusalem' England's oldest pub built into the Castle Rock. There are three world famous golf courses in the Nottingham area, Cox Moor, Wollaton Park and Stanton on the Wolds. I lived close to the two latter ones. It is my personal opinion that he embarked on those great personal tours because he wanted to play on the great golf courses he knew of before time ran out.

So pleased that the fuel crisis seems to be over. I did think about you and the 50th meeting and I'm sure you were concerned that your great efforts may not become fruitful on October 1st. Where can I BUY 'Rhythm on the Range' video? Never seen it.

Best wishes and a successful 'due' on the 1st. - or is it 'do'?

Arthur

Re: +
Rhythm on the range
24/01.

Mr A N Allen
Rycroft
Low Road
Wainfleet St. Mary
SKEGNESS
PE24 4JQ



January 19th 2001.

Dear Michael,

Positively delighted at your so kind and generous action in forwarding 'Crosbyana No.1'. Where did I get the title from? Simply, Crosby plus my initials! It was so great to read (as the late Ernie Wise often said) Wot I wrote... fifty years ago! Bad duplicating and a dim light in my upstairs den didn't help although I am pleased with the composition ~~and~~ attained at twenty one years of age. As I have previously stated, your Bing magazine is a superb production. The only thing I cannot understand is that one feature follows after another with a single banner. Surely a great professional production should merit banners and bylines and even a line drawing or alternative type. I opine there must be a good reason and I must immediately apologise for myself being a new member already voicing my thoughts. I did go to the Nottingham College of Art part-time to study commercial art... you would hardly believe it from Crosbyana No.1 considering all the art work was mine done with a mimeograph stylo pen.

Your mention of 'Rhythm on the range' answered a question for me as when I played the AGM tape on my JVC seven format wide screen tv I viewed in the auto panoramic mode which, I understand is usually adopted by viewers as it is so versatile. When the excerpts from 'Rhythm' were played the pictures were rectangularly digital 'like'; so, at my third viewing, I changed to normal format and got the real picture. I would add that my equipment does play NTSC tapes.. but obviously not in widescreen simulated format! Talking of JVC.. Victor company of Japan.. on JVC tapes it always states 'Made by the inventors of VHS' I could not understand this as The tv firm I use in the next village is owned by Jack Motson who used to be production manager at MURPHY R & TV factory which was beneath Skegness pier. They made Bush there when Rank purchased it. Jack knew the beginnings of videorecording which, according to LEGEND, was initially invented by two Russians in 1928. Bing heard about this and the two Russians who gave up owing to problems with a satisfactory tape/film. Bing's tape recorder firm went to work and eventually came up with the American system of NTSC. I went over to Germany to visit AEG and Telefunken with their Midlands rep. in the early 70's. As the PAL system differs from the American system.. having more lines, etc., Victor of Japan worked on a video system suitable for PAL hence 'the inventors of VHS'. Video Home System'. Jack also told me that JVC is owned by RCA/Victor of USA as are Panasonic and Technics. Obviously Victor wanted to get American video tapes on the EEC market but could not do so without the authority of Telefunken owners of our color system.

Finally, I don't envy your trips up and down the M1. I frequently went from J.26 and turned off for Flore at the Northampton junction on my way to Southbourne, Bournemouth. One last thing, We were on a day visit to Stratford upon Avon in the summer of 68 and as we were walking on a path by the theatre I saw two men in front of us. One was actor Robert Beatty. He was showing a slightly shorter, balding man around. It was Bing. I never saw his face but I did see the back of him.